tion of Publishers and Book-Sellers Association of India', the educationists had voiced their concern over the performance of the NCERT in regard to publishing and distribution of text books; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take to ensure that teachers and students feel satisfied about the quality of printing and timely receipt of the books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) In a Seminar on Book Publishing organised by the Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Association of India in April, 1987, some speakers had expressed concern about the quality of NCERT Textbooks and the delay in their distribuiton.

The NCERT has continuously striven to produce books of quality, authenticity and have endeavoured to arrange their availability in time. The NCERT has been consistently winning prizes for excellence in production of books and during this year alone eight awards for excellent printing and designing of books have been won.

NCERT books are being distributed through the Sales Emporia of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting located in various parts of the country. NCERT has, in an effort to further streamline the distribution of books, appointed 14 wholesale agencies in the U.T. of Delhi on an experimental basis.

Fire in a coach of Shane-Punjab

446. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a coach of Amritsar bound Shane-Punjab caught fire on the 14th September, 1987 after it left Delhi, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any enquiry in the incident has been held, if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Derailment of goods train between Rohtak and Delhi

447. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some coaches of a goods train were derailed between Rohtak and Delhi on the 4th September, 1987 due to explosion on rail track; and

(b) if so, the details of the incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. However, this was not due to any explosion on the rail track.

(b) The accident seems to have occurred due to track defect.

Malaria Death in M.P.

448. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forty nine people died of malaria in M.P. during the last two months;

(b) whether similar deaths have been reported from other States also: and

(c) if so, the steps taken to control the incidents of malaria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) As per reports received from the State Health authorities, 62 deaths occurred in fever epidemic in Dhar district of Madhya Prdaesh. The deaths could not be confirmed as due to malaria as no blood smears were taken from the cases.

(b) 49 deaths have been reported due to malaria from other parts of the country.